

will be promises kept." Instead, he has given them 2 more years of who knows what while almost 1 million veterans will die.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, the Keep Our Promise to America's Retirees Act, has over 300 cosponsors and will go a long way towards restoring faith with them. Tricare, the military health care program, does not work for many military retirees. Veterans and military retirees are tired of empty words and broken promises. Let us think about it. For the last 20 years we have been telling the military retirees and veterans about health care saying when we get some money, we are going to help them with their health care. We have not delivered. Let us not wait another 2 years and let another million veterans die in disgrace.

□ 1015

#### BUDGET AN INSULT TO VETERANS

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, as we speak, the Republicans are celebrating over at the White House their big tax break plan. These same folks who are celebrating gave great speeches on Memorial Day last week saying how much they supported our veterans. Yet they voted for a tax break plan and they voted for a budget which is an insult to our Nation's veterans.

This budget barely keeps pace with inflation from past years. We will have veterans waiting years to adjudicate their claims and 10,000 cases a week are being added to the backlog. Veterans will have to wait months and months for doctors' appointments. We are doing nothing to find a cure for Persian Gulf War illness. We are doing nothing to advance our treatment of mental illness. We are doing nothing for the homeless veterans that are on our streets.

Yes, they are celebrating their tax breaks, they passed a budget, but they are dishonoring our veterans. They ought to be ashamed of themselves for such a celebration and we ought to change the appropriations to reflect our real commitment and our real appreciation of our Nation's veterans.

#### BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR MAIN STREET AMERICA

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, as I speak, down at the White House they are signing the \$2 trillion tax bill and champagne corks are popping on Wall Street. What about Main Street? Well, Main Street is getting the bill. Main Street is seeing higher gasoline prices, higher electric bills and natural gas prices. The President said, well, they could use their refund to help pay those costs. They give you some money

and you send it to an energy company in Texas.

Unfortunately nearly 30 percent of American families will not be getting any of that rebate. Most American families, more than half, pay more in Social Security taxes than they do income taxes. Many of those families will not get a penny of this so-called rebate. Some will get a check for a dollar. It costs the Federal Government 15 bucks to write the check and they will get a buck back. Hey, it buys almost a half a gallon of gas. Good deal.

For the most wealthy families in America, this is a day to celebrate the repeal of the estate tax and other things that will benefit them tremendously, but for average Americans, Main Street Americans, it is business as usual in Washington, D.C. They will get the bill, not the check.

#### INTERNET PRIVACY VIOLATIONS

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to alert Members this morning to a disturbing report we received in response to our demand for an accounting of privacy violations on governmental Web sites. We just received the other day the audit report of the Department of Defense Web sites. We found disturbing information. Of 400 sites that were reviewed, over a quarter of them had privacy violations where Americans' privacy rights were being abused by Federal agencies. There were 128 sites that had unauthorized use of cookies which is essentially a system used to collect personal information on your system placed there by a government Web site. There were 100 sites that had no privacy notice. Perhaps most disturbing, there were seven sites where the government agencies had used Web bugs which essentially are capable of tracking an individual's uses of the Internet.

This is extremely disappointing after all of our work on privacy here in this Chamber for the executive branch to be so callously indifferent to people's privacy. I urge Members to be alert to this. We need to work together to make sure that these agencies stop these nefarious practices. Government should start respecting Americans' privacy.

#### TAX CUT BENEFITS WEALTHY AT EXPENSE OF EVERYONE ELSE

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office just released revised estimates on the fiscal year 2002 surplus. The so-called contingency fund has shrunk from \$12 billion to \$1 billion.

Surprise, surprise, surprise.

I know now why we rushed through passage of this \$1.35 trillion tax cut.

There is not enough room for both the tax cut and funding for essential programs.

In school, we learned that the hip bone is connected to the thigh bone, but unfortunately many of my colleagues do not understand that expenditures are connected to revenues. As a result, our constituents will suffer.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, my home State of Maine will lose \$44 million next year alone under the proposed Bush budget. LIHEAP is cut. School renovation and construction grants are eliminated. That is only the beginning.

This country would be better off if the President today did not sign this \$1.35 trillion tax cut which benefits the wealthy at the expense of everyone else.

#### ON ENERGY AND REVEREND SHARPTON

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important as my colleagues have already noted that as we discuss this energy concern or energy crisis, we begin to be part of the solution and not part of the crisis. I think it is important to note there are problems in the western part of this Nation; but as the hot summer months proceed, we will find it moving throughout this country. Enhanced funding for LIHEAP is important. Dialogue about a consideration of a moratorium on pricing is important. Businesses are closing. People cannot provide for their needs in the western States. And I clearly believe that it is important that we look at alternative fuel sources, but we will do nothing if we are not discussing these issues. We need to discover the solution over the problem.

Finally, might I say in a totally different mode as a Member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, I am enormously disappointed in what has happened to Reverend Al Sharpton and a number of individuals who pressed the point of protest about the use of the naval base in Puerto Rico. It seems ridiculous that an individual who was pressing political speech and protesting on behalf of his beliefs should not be allowed bail. I would hope that there would be a consideration of his case so that as he is pressing his case of his innocence, he is allowed to be out on bail. It makes no sense. We believe in the first amendment in this Nation, and we should have the right to freedom of speech.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1699, COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 155 and ask for its immediate consideration.